

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3, and 4 have been amended. Claims 5-7 are new.

In the Office Action mailed August 3, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite because “the case of a same frequency” and “the case of different frequencies” lacked antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claims 3 and 4 to overcome this rejection by reciting “a same frequency handoff” and “a different frequency handoff” in claims 3 and 4, respectively. No new matter has been added. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 5, lines 5-10.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by published U.S. Application No. 2001/0034233 (“Tiedemann”). Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tiedemann in view U.S. Patent No. 6,256,300 (“Ahmed et al.”).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the bases for the rejections and request reconsideration and further examination of the claims.

Claim 1 of the present application is directed to a hard handoff method for making a mobile client continuously receive Internet services. Claim 1 recites the steps of (1) carrying out a handoff procedure with a target radio network upon encountering a hard handoff situation in the mobile client; (2) carrying out a mobile IP registration procedure for the mobile client and the target packet data service node of the target radio network without closing the current traffic links; and (3) shifting a traffic channel of the mobile client to the target packet data service node from a current packet data service node after setting all links. Claim 1 further recites the carrying out of a mobile IP registration procedure to include transmitting an agent advertisement message to the mobile client, and the mobile client transmitting an agent solicitation to the target packet data service node.

Dependent claims 2-4 further recite setting independent multiple point-to-point protocol (PPP) links and their control functions, including a channel allocation in the case of a same frequency and a frequency and channel allocation in the case of different frequencies.

The Tiedemann patent is directed to a cellular communication system with common channel soft handoff and associated method. At paragraph 0006, Tiedemann describes

the routing of packets to a packet switched network, “such as the Internet.” Tiedemann further describes at paragraph 0131 that “it will be appreciated that the availability of paging channel soft handoff in accordance with the present invention does not preclude the use of Access Handoff or Access Probe Handoff. Therefore, in a current embodiment, each individual base station may also send hard handoff permission information on its respective F-BCCH paging channel that indicates which other base stations are permitted to participate in (hard) Access Handoffs.” Referencing Figure 9 and paragraph 0138, Tiedemann describes the process via a timing diagram of call origination message sequencing between a mobile unit, multiple base stations, and a base station controller. Beginning at paragraph 0144, Tiedemann describes call termination for soft handoff that includes assignment of a traffic channel.

Ahmed et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,256,300, is directed to mobility management for a multiple mobile network. At column 6, lines 17-20, Ahmed et al. describe their invention as being used with “packet-based wireless communications system.” At column 6, lines 56-58, Ahmed et al. describe “a plurality of network nodes 104 preferably interconnected with point-to-point wireless links 110.”

Tiedemann clearly does not teach or suggest the “setting all links” as recited in claim 1 and does not teach or suggest not closing current traffic links. The paragraph referenced by the Examiner in Tiedemann, 0006, does not teach or suggest the setting or not setting of “links.” Moreover, nowhere do Tiedemann or Ahmed et al., taken alone or in any combination thereof, teach or suggest transmitting an agent advertisement message to the mobile client, and the mobile client transmitting an agent solicitation to the target packet data service node as an aspect of carrying out a mobile IP registration procedure. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is clearly allowable over Tiedemann.

Dependent claims 2-4 are also allowable for the features they recite as well as for the reasons why claim 1 is allowable.

New claim 5 is directed to carrying out the mobile IP registration procedure of claim 1 that includes transmitting a registration request to an AAA server and receiving a mobile IP registration reply from the AAA server. Claim 6 recites the registration request being transmitted by the target packet data service node and the reply being received at the target

packet data service node. Claim 7, which depends from claim 6, recites the target packet data service node transmitting a confirmation of the mobile IP registration reply to the mobile client.

Nowhere do Tiedemann or Ahmed et al., taken alone or in any combination thereof, teach or suggest the features recited in claims 5-7.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims remaining in this application are clearly in allowance over the references cited and applied by the Examiner. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

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